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A bonnie good night
Victoria Bingham leads an eager crowd of dancers during Haliburton's annual Robbie Burns Night at the Legion. For more photos, see inside this edition.
/TIM YANO staff photographer

Ford calls snap election - over a year in advance

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

It's official.

In a surprise to very few, Premier Doug Ford announced that he will be running a snap provincial election, with Ontarians headed to the polls on Feb. 27.

Ford made the announcement during a scheduled media talk in Brampton on Friday, Jan. 24. While the reasoning behind the quick vote - now set for over a year earlier than the originally planned election date of June, 2026 - isn't entirely clear, Ford seems to be pointing fingers to none other than the newly-elected American President, Donald Trump.

"We need a mandate from the people to fight against Donald Trump's tariffs," said Ford to the press on Friday. "He's coming against our families, our businesses, our communities."

Trump has suggested he would implement a 25 per cent levy on Canadian products as early as Feb. 1 of this year, but

see NDP page 2

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Numbers are in and county tourism operators take stock

JAMES MATTHEWS

Staff Reporter

Haliburton County tourism stakeholders have taken stock of the past two seasons with the aim of gauging how the local industry is coming along.

Angelica Ingram, the county's tourism manager, walked Haliburton County council through the results of a pair of surveys conducted at the end of last year's tourism season. One was by the Ontario Highlands Tourism Organization and another was pursued by the county.

She said in a report to council that the tourism department staff undertook various efforts to gauge stakeholder engagement in last year's fourth quarter. Staff hoped to create a snapshot of how tourism businesses fared overall during the year.

A Tourism Stakeholder Business Performance and Sustainability Survey was also conducted by the Ontario Highlands Tourism Organization (OHTO).

Key insights were gleaned from both the county survey and the OHTO survey, which included more than 40 tourism-related businesses.

In 2024, about 28 per cent of businesses reported slightly better revenue. Nine per cent experienced significantly better revenue, while 35 per cent saw slightly better visitation compared to 2023. However, 23 per cent reported slight declines in revenue.

The majority of respondents saw a decrease in business from May to October in 2024 compared to 2023.

Tourism operators seem cautiously optimistic about the 2025 season. Forty per cent of respondents expect slightly better business performance and 14 per cent anticipate significantly better performance. Thirty-five percent anticipate 2025 will be about the same as 2023 and 2024.

It was learned that some major barriers to growth include access to capital, labour shortages, sales volume challenges, and rising operating costs. Specific concerns were about housing availability for seasonal staff, overhead costs, and climate-related impacts like shorter winter seasons.

Key investment priorities for 2025 include marketing and promotions and recruiting qualified staff. Top community priorities include workforce development, sustainable development, and attracting businesses and residents.

Environmental concerns centre on litter, water pollution, wildlife impact, and overcrowding in natural areas. Climate change impacts such as milder winters, extreme weather, and wildfire risks are significant challenges for stakeholders.

The section on total visitation to tourism businesses in 2024 compared to 2023 reveals five per cent indicated a substantial improvement in visitation. Thirty-five per cent of respondents said they experienced a slight visitation increase.

Twenty-eight per cent experienced about the same as 2023, and reported no significant change in visitation numbers. Twenty-one per cent said their season was slightly worse last year and 12 per cent indicated they faced a significant decline in visitation.

Ingram said in a report to county council that the department has been addressing some of the key areas of concern for tourism businesses, including labour shortages and marketing and promotion partnerships.

Looking ahead to 2025, these results will help guide some of our decisions around collaborations and product development.

"Most of the results are fairly positive with a lot of our businesses looking into this year with some optimism, so we're happy to see that," Ingram said.

Councillor Jennifer Dailloux, the deputy mayor of Algonquin Highlands, suggested a comparison of tourist visitation numbers in 2024 and 2023 be provided.

"We've got almost a 50-50 split," Dailloux said. "I mean, it's not quite there."

Some respondents characterized the comparison as significantly better. Many respondents described the last season as slightly better than the previous.

"But then quite a few saying slightly worse and significantly worse," Dailloux said. "Is there any way to disaggregate what those numbers mean, either for this report or for a future report so that we know is it the same type of tourism business that's experiencing slightly worse (engagement)?"

Disaggregate. I had to look it up, too. It means to separate something into its component parts. To take a look at something by way of its pieces.

Dailloux said she isn't certain of how a broad spread of information can be used.

Ingram said she will reach out to the OHTO and request some specific data.

NDP urges "stability" in light of snap election

from page 1

like many of the President's bold statements, the legitimacy of this call to action seems up for debate.

The other party leaders seem wary of Ford's decision to go ahead with the abrupt call. "In the face of looming tariff threats, Ontario needs stability, not an election," said Green Party Leader Mike Schreiner. "We need to demonstrate strength through unity to defend Canadian workers, Canadian jobs and Canadian companies."

"Any premier who calls a snap election like this in the middle of the winter is hoping that people aren't paying attention," said Ontario NDP Leader Marit Stiles to the press. "We need stability. Calling an election does not create stability. It looks to Donald Trump like an opportunity to shake things up even further. I think it's the wrong approach."

Ford also cited that the "lack of leadership" at a federal level played a part in his decision to call a snap election. Historically, Ontario voters have opted for different parties in power between the province and the country, and with polls suggesting that Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre may take the cake in Ottawa, many are suggesting that Ford wants to secure his spot before the upcoming federal election, slated for this spring.

The *Echo* and the *Times* will continue to share political profiles and updates that will impact our local readers as details become available leading up to the Feb. 27 election date.

Huskies howl

The Haliburton County Huskies faced off against the Pickering Panthers at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena on Jan. 25. The home team came out on top, securing a 4-1 lead over the Panthers after a fast-paced game that had the crowd on their feet. /TIM YANO staff photographer

We need to talk about 'Mooch'; Haliburton's problematic deer

THOMAS SMITH
Staff Reporter

'Mooch', the white-tailed deer has become the poster child for the issues with feeding deer in Haliburton. Nicknamed by Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary founder Monika Melichar, Mooch can be seen begging for food outside of Todd's Independent grocery store in Haliburton.

Two weeks ago, Melichar received several phone calls regarding a deer that was wandering around Haliburton County Road 21, getting pet by visitors, and being fed apples in the Independent parking lot.

All of these acts were committed by Mooch, a rotund white-tailed deer (The sex of Mooch has not been identified yet). Mooch has been able to learn that people are getting food from the store, and sharing. Recently, Mooch has been spotted poking its head in people's grocery bags, following customers to their car, and stealing items from people's shopping bags.

On Jan. 17, Melichar set out to find Mooch and assess their health, after concerned citizens notified her of the little deer's presence.

"He's a perfectly healthy young yearling. There's nothing wrong with him," said Melichar. "He is super fat and healthy."

Mooch is a part of the herd of deer that lives behind the Independent grocery store in Haliburton, around Industrial Park Road. The herd of deer are also fed by the Feed and Seed store on Mallard Road, says Melichar.

Frequently wandering away from the herd, Mooch has become totally unconcerned with humans, vehicles and any commotion in the parking lot.

On Jan. 18, Melichar received a call about a white-tailed that had been hit on the road in front of the Independent. Fearing the worst, she hopped in her car.

The deer in the ditch was not Mooch. Unfortunately, the deer was critically injured and required to be euthanized by OPP officers.

Mooch could have very well been the deer that was struck. Melichar described what people are doing to Mooch as "killing with kindness."

Melichar is desperate for people to think twice before feeding Mooch and other deer. Coaxing and feeding a wild animal is dangerous. Humans have a tendency to feed wild animals, sometimes leading to their death.

Freya, a young female walrus from Norway was euthanized in 2021 after she received increased attention from tourists. After sinking several boats while hauling out and chasing one woman into the water, Directorate of Fisheries sought the advice of a local veterinarian. The veterinarian concluded that Freya was not getting enough rest and was stressed out. Fearing for people's safety, the Directorate of Fisheries made the decision to euthanize Freya. They decided not to sedate her and transport her to a zoo in fear of her drowning to death.

In 2019, a young black bear from Hagg Lake, Oregon was euthanized after it had become accustomed to being fed by humans. People began to frequently take selfies with it, while giving it human food. This bear, as well as many other food-conditioned bears are euthanized across Canada every year.

Melichar says that if Mooch becomes a danger to people, it is likely he could be euthanized as well.

Melichar has also considered taking Mooch to her wildlife facility, where he could be rehabilitated with a balanced diet and plenty of exercise.

"There is no reason to take him out of the wild, except that he has become a problem child," said Melichar.

An adult male deer can weigh up to 300 or 400 pounds. If Mooch is a male deer, he can become exceptionally strong and demanding, says Melichar. Mooch would have the potential to bunt people, kick people, and knock them over.

"If he is a buck, he will become a problem," said Melichar.

Feeding Mooch apples and carrots not only poses a danger to people, but a danger to the deer's own health.

A deer has specialized gut flora that changes with the seasons, says Melichar. In the winter, deer are browse feeders. Their diets typically consist of woody substances such as shrubs, shoots, twigs, and acorns. In the summer, deer become more accustomed to eating lush and juicy vegetation, similar to things like carrots and apples. Due to the consistent feeding done by residents and businesses in Haliburton, Melichar says starvation is not likely.

Corn is one of deer's favourite treats. Often used as an attractant, deer love the sweetness of the veggie. It provides them a sugar high and insulin rush, but corn can cause bloating and kill a white-tailed deer. Especially when corn is mixed with molasses, deer can hardly resist such tasty treats, potentially leading to death by bloating. In addition to bloat, food-conditioned deer are more likely to develop the condition known as Aladdin's Slippers. When deer are not walking far for food sources, their hooves become overgrown and become quite painful. Unable to walk on their hooves, deer with Aladdin's Slippers bear all of their weight on their ankles, leading to injuries or death.

While adorable, Monika Melichar is advising residents not to feed 'Mooch', the white-tailed deer. After another member of Mooch's herd was killed on Jan. 18, Melichar advises residents cease feeding the deer and growing it's dependency on humans. /Submitted

'Mooch' eats a pile of apples left by a customer at the Independent in Haliburton.

Melichar knows that many people are not going to cease feeding deer in Haliburton.

Dysart enacted a complete ban on deer feeding in November of 2023, and citizens are still divided on the issue. Some say that feeding deer lures them into the town where they can be hit, while others say that it is a necessity to keep the deer alive after human destruction of their habitat and food sources. County resident Phil Primavera has said that he will never stop feeding the deer, no matter how many fines he receives from the township.

Melichar advises the public that if you are going to feed deer, to feed them a mixture of rolled oats and corn. At her wildlife sanctuary, the deer are fed a mixture of three parts oats and one part corn, which she says the deer still go "buck-wild" over. Grains, rolled oats, bird feed, and even cut cedar branches make excellent deer feed. If you are feeding deer at your house, it is advised to feed them in your backyard as far away from the road as possible.

"Confronting somebody that thinks that they are doing a good thing is hard," said Melichar. Approaching deer like Mooch and giving them an apple gives people a fuzzy feeling. People's egos are rewarded as you think you are doing an act of kindness, she noted.

"They don't love us, all we are is a handout," said Melichar.

She advises anyone that sees deer in the Independent parking lot, to shoo them away. It is important to approach people feeding the deer and educate them that feeding deer like Mooch is not an act of kindness, but one that can lead to their death.

Melichar has reached out to the Independent for comment, but has not received a reply. She intends to put up flyers advising people to not feed the deer, but will only do so when she has permission.

The wildlife sanctuary receives a phone call about a deer that has been struck on the road daily. Often, two to four deer can be struck in a single day.

In order to keep Mooch and other deer safe in Haliburton, deer need to remain afraid of humans. With one deer already lost from Mooch's herd, humans have the responsibility to cease interfering with the wildlife in Haliburton County before irreparable damage is done.

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County planning works to improve online presence

JAMES MATTHEWS

Staff Reporter

Haliburton County will investigate shared components to its planned priorities with those of its lower tier municipalities.

As part of the Economic Development and Tourism 2024 Workplan, updates on tourism activities were provided to county council to share the items undertaken by the department.

Staff last provided a tourism activity report to council during its Jan. 22 meeting. The last report was delivered in October 2024.

The report provides a summary of key projects the department is currently overseeing and developing, said Elizabeth Purcell, the county's planning director.

All Planning Department applications are being updated to ensure they are in accordance with relevant legislation and to ensure the 2025 fees are accurately listed, if applicable.

Staff will be working to update the department's webpages in the next two months to provide public access to all applications, the county's Official Plan, and to ensure any contact information or other general information is up to date for the department.

With respect to the updating of the county's Official Plan, Deputy Warden Liz Danielsen, who is the mayor of Algonquin Highlands, wondered if there would be a discussion about consolidation.

> ***"I think we could give some consideration to having one plan with maybe some particular sub-plans to address unique circumstances in each municipality.***
>
> — Liz Danielsen, Deputy Warden

Four of the lower tier townships will at some point update their respective Official Plans following Haliburton County.

"When I think about the cost of each one of us having to develop a new Official Plan, it's a lot of money," she said. "If we all have to work, basically, under the rule of the county's Official Plan, I think we could give some consideration to having one plan with maybe some particular sub-plans to address unique circumstances in each municipality."

Gary Dyke, the county's CAO, said recommendations of options will be brought to council for consideration as part of the update to the service delivery program.

Sandra Dabrowski, the director of YMCA Wanakita's outdoor centre, is thrilled to be offering March Break programming this year for the first time, designed with local families in mind. /photo submitted

March Break comes to Wanakita

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

For the first time ever, YMCA's Camp Wanakita is dipping their toes into the world of March Break camps. "We want to be the place to have the time of your life," said Wanakita's outdoor centre director, Sandra Dabrowski. "We are so excited about the creative programming here."

For nearly 70 years, nestled on Koshlong Lake, Wanakita has offered year-round programming to kids of all ages, including family camps. And while these camps are met with success, Dabrowski and her team have been brainstorming ways to offer accessible programs catered specifically to local kids. "It's really important that we are creating opportunities for our local community," she shared. "We want to make sure it's particularly accessible to everyone who may want it."

The week-long program is designed with both parents and kids in mind; parents from a flexibility and accessibility standpoint, and kids through a programming mind-set. "We are focusing on timing for the day that really works for the parents," noted Dabrowski, referencing the flexible drop-off window of 8 to 9 a.m., with pick-up anywhere between 4 to 5 p.m. "It will allow someone to have a full work day between those hours," she said.

Another perk to the full-day programming, is the inclusion of lunch throughout the week. Kids will have options for sandwiches, soups, salads, and desserts each and every day, alleviating yet another factor around the parent's mental load during a busy time of year.

The camps are designed for kids through Grades 1 to 8, and will be organized based on age and interests. With it being an unpredictable time of year weather-wise, Dabrowski says that she and her team are working diligently to develop a wealth of programs that can work with whatever Mother Nature has to offer.

Activities such as cross country skiing, broomball, snowshoeing, eco-lessons, low and high ropes courses, and a toboggan hill are all on the roster, with indoor activities such as crafts, painting, and games also available. "We provide all the equipment that the kids will need," said Dabrowski. "All we ask is that they are prepared with their personal clothing."

Dabrowski noted that the March Break camp is the last programming scheduled for their winter season, and her team is looking forward to coming up with some "creative programming" to cater to the kids interests. "It's all about kids being able to spend time with other kids their age, and a chance to make some new friends," she said.

While much of the Wanakita programming in the past has been offered to people both from the community as well as visitors, Dabrowski noted that many of the overnight camps or family camps tend to draw crowds from away. With the March Break camps, she hopes to attract more of a local crowd. "It's so important that we are creating opportunities for our local youth," she said. "Particularly accessible fun, for anyone interested in being there."

Wanakita March Break camp is now open for registration, and more information can be found at www.ymca.bb.ca.

"We're excited for what this year will bring," said Dabrowski, "I hope we can make this something we do every year for our community."

Local photographer recognized on international stage

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

McMullen's most recent winning image, which won the top prize for the Canadian Wildlife Federation's contest, *Connecting with Nature*. /photo submitted

We repeatedly hear about the importance of disconnecting from the online world, but in reality, it's nearly impossible to do.

The world is fast-paced these days; a swirling buzz of colour and motion that never seems to let us off the spinning ride.

Exploring the natural world around us - particularly in a place like Haliburton County - takes effort, dedication, and a certain spark of passion.

And that's what Dana McMullen has set out to do.

The world-class photographer currently resides in Eagle Lake, with his photos circulating around the globe. From 2016 until 2019, he was a *National Geographic* contributing photographer, with multiple images published 12 different times. He's been featured in the Smithsonian, the Laguna Gallery of Contemporary Art, and the Forest and Ocean Gallery, which is an Ansel Adams licensed gallery.

He's currently featured at the Wolf-Subzero Designer Gallery in Downtown Toronto, and the Algonquin Arts Centre.

He's travelled the world; taken in the beauty of the natural cracks and crevices scattering the surfaces. "But I wasn't really connecting to nature," he reflected.

As we sat in his cozy Eagle Lake home, his life's word adorning the walls, we took a step back through his journey, of how he got to where he is today.

"12 years ago, I was going through a massive change in my life," he said. "So I got on a plane, I flew to Denver. And the idea was that I needed to connect with people, and I needed to connect with nature."

While McMullen navigated the National Parks, he realized that he's been so busy, so caught up in the moment of capturing that shot, of snapping that second, that he just didn't enjoy it.

"I think I have a better opportunity to capture the magic, when I'm not on the dime of a client," he shared.

Originally hailing from the Waterloo region, McMullen studied graphic design with a minor in photography at Sheridan College. His original passion was design work, with photography often placed on the backburner. Yet when he started work with a global firm, who presented a project to shoot National Parks across the United States, McMullen jumped at the opportunity. "It's a passion," he said, in reference to grabbing those shots, "it's the thrill of the chase."

In 2015, McMullen and his wife, Rose, left their careers with the global firm in the States, and started their own design and communications firm, EvergreenCSD. The couple works with clients across North America to bring images and stories to life, and while McMullen enjoys the people and the work, he recognized his own personal need to reconnect with nature.

After taking years off from submitting work to photography contests, McMullen dove back in this past year. And his efforts paid off.

He won one gold, one silver, and four bronze awards from the International Pano Awards in 2024, the largest international competition dedicated to panoramic photography around the globe.

Most recently, he won the top prize for the Canadian Wildlife Federation's *Reflections of Nature* photo contest. "The winning, runner-up, and honourable mentions of this year's photo contest highlight the best of Canada's landscapes, wildlife, and flora. They also capture how Canadians connect with nature, and how wildlife weaves itself into our urban environments," shared the website.

The best part? McMullen took all of his award-winning photos during his time off. As he says, that's when the magic happens. When he's feeling connected. When he's one with his natural surroundings.

For his winning shot with the Canadian Wildlife Federation, he had tried for days to capture that moment. The textures, the layers, the depth. It was never quite lining up.

Until it did. "It was such a brief ten minutes of light," he reflected. "That was all I had. And it was that one moment that may never happen again."

McMullen looks forward to what's next for him; both professionally and personally, as he explores his world with a new outlook, a new drive. "I want to say yes to everything," he said. "I am not sure I'll ever totally shut off, but I am going to try. To have those moments where I feel so connected to what's happening right in front of me."

points of view

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• 705-457-1037 • Fax 705-457-3275
Published by **White Pine Media Corp**

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Spark

WHILE I make an effort to take a neutral stance in news-based articles, an editorial is a place to spark a conversation. The fire and flames of a paper.

And here's my hot take this week: I am sick and tired of men in power controlling our world.

There, I said it. And if I have offended you, then feel free to add this paper to the burn pile.

But I am fired up.

This snap election, called by Premier Doug Ford on Jan. 24, is a waste of time, of money, of resources, and of energy.

When it became official that the pending poll date was set in stone, I scoured the internet, trying to understand.

Why? Why now? Does this help the people of Ontario? Does this protect us? Does this directly benefit us?

And while I tried to make sense of the multi-million dollar proposal, nothing came up clear.

To protect our country from Donald Trump and his elusive tariffs? Okay, sure, maybe we need some buffer from the buffoon and whatever he's rambling about these days, but I don't think that's the true cause behind the snap decision.

I think Ford wants to stay in power. And he knows that historically, Ontarians like to have juxtaposing representatives between Queen's Park and Ottawa. With the early polls showing that Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre is slated to win the spring federal election, Ford is worried that he won't maintain his position of power when the provincial election rolls around again next summer.

And, similar to a toddler having a tantrum, he's impatient. He wants power, and he wants it now.

This decision isn't political. It's personal. I wasn't happy when Trudeau called a sudden election in 2021, either. In fact, many of you weren't. It has nothing to do with the parties and what they represent, and everything to do with men who are hungry for power, and don't have the emotional capacity to wait. They want power, and they want it now.

Like a child with a juicebox. Except, we discipline children when they whine, when they fuss, when they stomp their feet and yell. Why don't we extend that to men in power?

In today's economy, Ontarians are on the brink of selling their souls for a head of lettuce. Food Bank usage is at an all-time high, the costs for hydro and heat are enough to break the bank.

There is a province-wide shortage of doctors, teachers, and nurses; on the cusp of major danger if not addressed.

Doug Ford's gang raised $10.6 million in 2024. Experts are saying this will be used primarily for an advertising blitz in the days leading up to the provincial election, which is predicted that the PCs will win once again. Securing four more years in power. Or, however long Ford feels like sticking around. He makes the rules, apparently.

In my humble opinion, Ford has the fragile ego of a middle-schooler picked last for the dodgeball team, and we all have to pay the price for his redemption era.

So let's all do what Ford is most worried about, and actually care about this election. Let's vote for a representative who has our best interests at heart, who cares about our community, who is not fuelled by his hunger for power, but rather, the people who make our province tick. Let's spark conversation and ask questions and dare to dive deeper on real issues that impact not just us as individuals, but our neighbours, our friends, our family.

So instead of being moths to fire and scorching our wings, let's burn bright to change the course of the flame.

Because fire and flames all start with a spark.

emily stonehouse

Editorial

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Leo Sepa's "Flying Debris" sculpture in the Haliburton Sculpture Forest seems to be carrying the weight of the world. Or at least, the weight of winter. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Rest in peace

"TAKE CARE of your soul. It is the most beautiful part of you." The yogi's have said this for years. The story they tell is that your soul enters your body when you take your first breath, and it leaves when you take your last breath. You come from love and you return to love. Your soul is your spirit, your essence, the presence of love that sits at the centre of all of life. I often say, when I start a class, soften your outer body and let your spirit brighten up.

We work on connecting with our spirit and polishing it like a precious gem. The idea is that our spirit, our soul or essence, is what makes us unique. It's what people feel when they meet us. It is our inner beauty, our inner passion shining brightly in the world. And in the yoga practice we understand that our spirit, our essence needs a home to live in. Our human body. The form part of us that is made up of our skin, connective tissues, muscles, organs, bones, tendons, ligaments and every cell.

We want a strong home or form so our formless part - our spirit- has a place to live that is full of vitality. I've said these words thousands of times over my almost 30 years of teaching. And at the end of every class I've taught I've led a pose called "savasana" or the corpse pose. We take a few minutes and lie on our backs and become completely still. This pose helps the body rest and accept the good work that we have done. It is a pose of deep relaxation. Years ago a yoga teacher told me that the corpse pose "the dead person's pose" was also about death. The idea being that at the end of each class we "rest in peace." It teaches that death is a natural part of life and we learn to enjoy the quiet, the stillness and the peace. It creeped me out when the yoga teacher said this, and I've contemplated the idea many times over the years.

I think many people are afraid of death, while the yogi's have always seen death as a part of life, part of the practice. Two weeks ago I had the honour of being with my father as he passed. I sat with him for hours and sang all my favourite songs to him (thanks once again to the Haliburton County Folk Society for years of learning songs at concerts). I also played his favourite music for him. It was just the two of us most of the time with nurses and PSWS checking in. I got to quietly witness his transition to the corpse pose, and over the hours watch his breath get softer and softer. His physical form became quiet and still and the formless part of him, his soul, shone brightly at the start of the process and got softer and softer and eventually left his body. One of the gifts of being with him as he passed, is that I got to feel his soul as his body got quieter. It was like his spirit sat with mine and we just breathed together. His body shut down and eventually, his spirit or essence left his body and joined with the field of love that surrounds us. He came from love and returned to love. It was such a gift to be with him at this time. RIP Dad.

lynda shadbolt

Tales from the great

Green meadow

points of view

A little hair-ification

steve galea

Loon Tales

IF YOU read my column as far as most people do (to the end of the title), you might have gotten the wrong message about my hair, based on an unfortunate typo in last week's paper.

The column I sent in was titled, "The Wind beneath my Wings." Alas, sometime between me sending it in and it going to press, an "n" got dropped and my title turned into "The Wind beneath my Wigs."

I had no idea this occurred until people I met on the street started staring at my hairline and muttering things like, "My God, that looks seamless." Or, more often, "Dear Lord! That's the best wig you can afford?"

One fellow even tugged at my scalp.

So, permit me to set the record straight. There is no wind beneath my wigs, because I do not own a single wig. What little hair I have left is my own.

I know a lot of you don't believe me. Perhaps, I doth protest too much.

Actually, I doth not.

Regardless, here's all the proof you need. Next time you see me, have a good look at my hair. Then ask yourself, "If I was in need of a wig, is that the one I'd choose?"

The answer is clearly no. No, you would not.

Also, if I had more than one wig, as the column title suggested, do you think Jenn would let me leave the house with the one currently on my head? Again, I think we'd all agree that this is highly unlikely.

So, to recap, the hair atop my head, complete with bald patch and receding hairline, is my own. There are no wigs.

Right now, there are probably a few conspiracy-minded people who are probably thinking, "If I didn't want anyone to know I wore several wigs, this is exactly what I'd do. I'd deny, deny, deny. I'd even go so far as to make a deliberate mistake, blame someone other at the paper, and write a rebuttal in a newspaper column about the faulty column title that I myself planted. Classic disinformation! Moreover, I'd eliminate the wigmaker and his shop, and all of his employees, wipe out the paper trail, and mass hypnotize everyone so that they forgot all about the wig shop that used to be right on Main Street until last year when the mass hypnosis took place. … Oh and I'd eliminate all photographic, video, and on-line images of the Hubert's Wig Emporium, which of course, has never existed…. Plus, I'd influence a US election to get everyone's mind off of the topic, just in case…"

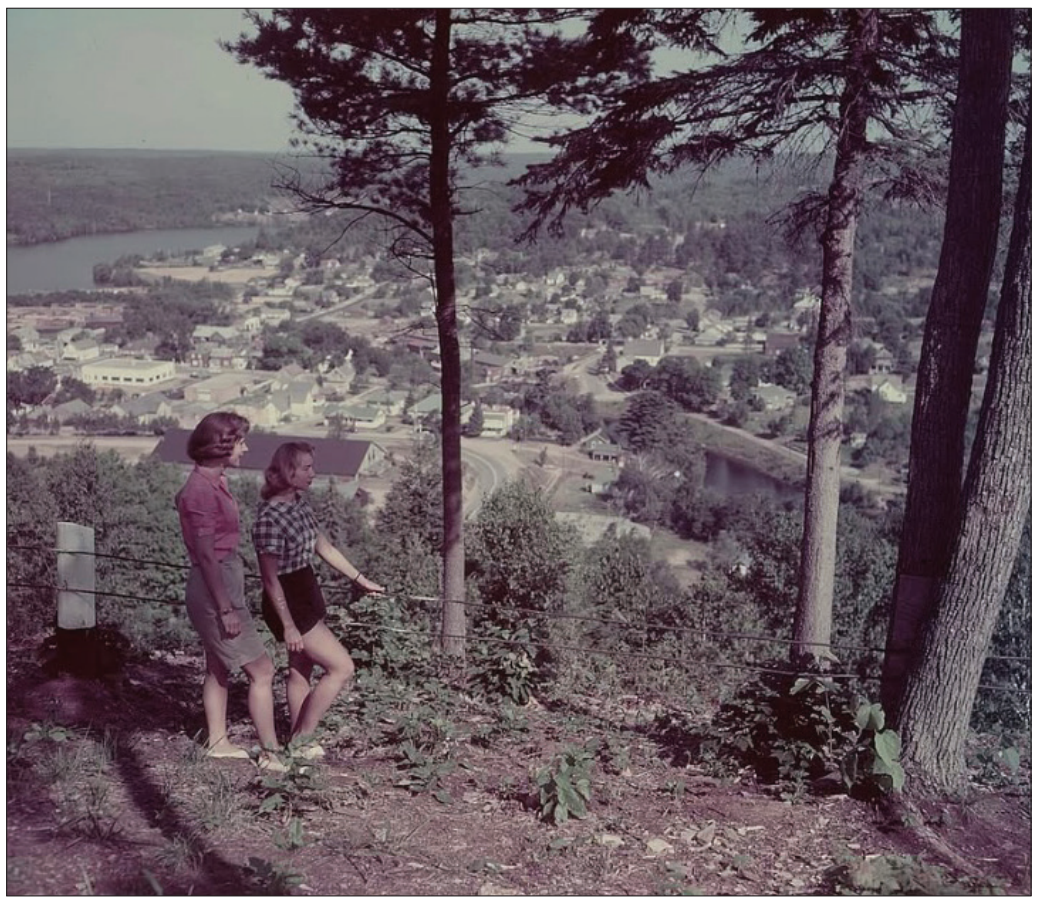
Well, that's just nonsense. There's no way I'd go to all that trouble just to get rid of all evidence that suggests I wore a wig. How vain do you think I am?

Get rid of and hypnotize people? Over a wig? Let's get real.

Right about this point, the conspiracy theorists would probably add, "Oh, so you paid them off handsomely instead, placed them in a witness protection program, gave them new identities, and set them up with a new life in Argentina? And then threw a US election…."

No, of course not. I mean how desperate do you think I am? To what lengths do you think I might go to throw people off of the trail? And why? Honestly, you're being ridiculous. There is no cover up.

You are getting sleeeeeeeepy...



pic *of the* past

A snapshot of Haliburton's Skyline Park in the 1950s, shared on the Facebook page titled "Old Ontario Series." If anyone has additional information about this image, or can identify the people in it, please reach out to emily@haliburtonpress.com.

Investigation leads to arrest and seizure of firearms and drugs

The Haliburton Highlands Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) has arrested and charged an individual following an investigation involving firearms.

As a result of an ongoing police investigation, members of the Haliburton Highlands OPP Community Street Crime Unit (CSCU), with the assistance of the OPP Tactics and Rescue Unit (TRU), OPP Emergency Response Team (ERT), executed a search warrant at a location on George Street in Haliburton on January 21, 2025. Multiple firearms, ammunition, other weapons, and suspected drugs were seized. One person was arrested.

As a result, a 41 year old from the Municipality of Dysart et al, has been charged with:

- Possession of Firearm or Ammunition contrary to Prohibition order - four counts
- Careless Storage of Firearm - three counts
- Unauthorized Possession of a Firearm - three counts
- Knowledge of Unauthorized Possession of a Firearm - three counts
- Failure to Comply with Release Order - six counts
- Possession of a Schedule I Substance

The accused was held for a Bail Hearing at the Ontario Court of Justice in Lindsay.

Anyone having knowledge of drug or property related offences is asked to contact the OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or by calling Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS). You can submit your information online at www.khcrimestoppers.com. Crime Stoppers does not subscribe to call display, and you will remain anonymous. Being anonymous, you will not have to testify in court and your information may lead to a cash reward of up to $2000.

Submitted

Have a thought, comment or opinion you'd like to share?

Send a letter to the editor to
emily@haliburtonpress.com

October 2024 Year in Review

The Great Haliburton Clothing Swap took place in the fall at the Haliburton School of Art + Design and was met with great success. /FILE

Abbey Garden's Fall Festival welcomed people from across the county to enjoy the autumnal activities. /FILE

Change is in the air

The *Echo* said goodbye to Vivian Collings, who left her position as editor to pursue a new opportunity in design. The newspaper welcomed back Emily Stonehouse from her maternity leave, who stepped into the role of editor for the *Haliburton Echo* and *County Life*, and a writer for the *Minden Times*.

Resident challenges Dysart's deer feed ban

Phillip Primavera appealed during a council meeting regarding an order to stop feeding deer.

He said he went to court after he received an order to stop feeding deer on his Mallard Road property. A lawyer told him the case wouldn't be pursued because it wasn't in the township's interest."If it's not in the township's interest, I ask why am I being charged an administrative penalty order to comply?" he said.

Hailey Cole, the municipal law enforcement supervisor, said the chance for the town to get a judgement in its favour was compromised by administrative challenges from township staff changes.

The odds of getting a conviction in court were slim, she said. So it wasn't in the municipality's interest.

35 years of SIRCH

With sparklers on a glossy cake and shimmering balloons in the background, Gena Roberston, the executive director of SIRCH, officially celebrated 35 years of giving back to the community with SIRCH. "35 years ago, I was the only employee in a tiny little office building," she reminisced. "But it's really a team effort. It's a huge collective effort, and Haliburton County is one of the best places to make those connections."

Cell tower causes tension between locals and council

A group of concerned citizens are questioning the decisions of local council when it comes to the development of a 90 metre Rogers cell tower on Minnicock Lake Road. "The area is a designated wetland by the county," said Dysart resident Michael Butz. "They've been making a terrible mess." The tower has been a point of contention since 2022, when the project was first proposed to the former sitting council.

New Italian restaurant moves ahead in Haliburton

The main street in Haliburton is about to have a taste of Italy on it. 210 Highland Street will be the new home of Juna Restaurant, an upscale Italian restaurant with artisan pizza, pasta, salads, and cocktails. "It started with us originally looking for staff housing," said Terri Mathews-Carl, one of the co-owners of the new space. "We saw the property that had an apartment upstairs, and thought to ourselves, 'what could we do with the space down below?' We wanted to open something that would complement the downtown, without being a competition."

Vandalism represents 'gap' in understanding; Minden Pride speaks out

An act of vandalism at Head Lake Park in Haliburton tripped alarms for Minden Pride.

The community organization was approached early last week, when some passerby in the park noticed homophobic slurs etched into the woodwork at the bandstand, overlooking Head Lake. The municipality, as well as the local police forces, were made aware of the vandalism, and while the slurs have since been sanded down, the mark they made on the LGBTQIA+ community have cut deeper.

The Studio Tour opened their doors across the county for the annual fall art show. Pictured, Lyn Lawrence of Haliburton showcases her ceramics work during a studio visit. /FILE

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November 2024 Year in Review

John Watson named Highlander of the Year

"I always joke that when I retire, I'd move up here," Watson laughed. "But one day I thought, why wait?" Watson is the environmental manager for Dysart et al. He is also a coach at Sweat Social fitness, a recreational stage manager, and, most recently, Haliburton County's Highlander of the Year; an award he was honoured with during the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce awards night at the Haliburton Legion.

Playing 'Husky Hockey'; how the hometown team is coming out on top

"This past year, we lost a few players, and now, we're really considered to be a young team," said Huskies coach Ryan Ramsay. "But they're dialed in this year. They're playing what we like to call 'Husky Hockey' this year." The team started the season strong, with an early standing as a top team in their Eastern division.

Remembering Cheri, and the table she set

Long-time member of the community Cheri Hicks passed away unexpectedly at the age of 62 at her home. Cheri was an involved mother and grandmother, as well as a key staff member throughout local schools. Her Celebration of Life at the Stanhope Community Centre drew hundreds, who shared stories and memories of Cheri in Haliburton.

All eyes on Haliburton for new turtle tunnel fencing system

The Turtle Guardians have worked on their turtle tunnel fencing project for the past six years. After reviewing similar projects throughout North America, Leora Berman says that they are excited to announce a new version of turtle tunnel fencing to be used in Haliburton County and beyond. Berman says that there are 97 potential sites in the county worthy of a turtle tunnel fence system.

Canada Post strike continues

What's normally a time where the local post offices are at their jolliest and most festive, this year, there's a different energy to the community hub. As of Nov. 15, 55,000 Canada Post workers went on strike, including the many that tie our communities together in Haliburton County. "Everybody is really upset about it," said Kelly Lawr, who works with the Haliburton branch, "but we had to do it at a time that there's an impact." The strike continued for weeks before workers were forced back by management, with promises of renegotiations set for the spring.

Members of Haliburton Legion Branch 129 march in the rain on Nov. 11 through Haliburton. /FILE

Above, members of Dysart et al's fire department hoist a tree up in the centre of the village, in preparation for the upcoming Haliburton Santa Claus Parade. The tree was provided by the Salvatori family. /FILE

Left, Dance Happens Here Haliburton presented Diwali: a Festival of Lights at the Haliburton Legion in November. The event drew a full house, and was filled with dance, music, and food. /FILE

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December 2024 Year in Review

Remembering École Polytechnique this December

The Canadian Federation of University Women honoured the women who had been slain at the Montreal Massacre 35 years ago. During a public vigil held in the Haliburton Sculpture Forest, mourners united to honour each woman who was murdered, and a moment of silence was taken to remember other women impacted by gender-based violence.

Snow way

Haliburton County was blasted with the first snow storm of the season in early December, with nearly 70 centimetres accumulating across the region. The townships of Minden Hills and Algonquin Highlands each declared a significant weather event, which resulted in all municipal buildings and properties being closed until the storm had passed.

Trojan Horse rolls through Haliburton

"A poison gift."

That's the phrase used by Michael Hurley, the president of the Ontario Council of Hospital Unions (OCHU), in reference to the infamous Trojan Horse. "It's an excellent metaphor for the privatization of healthcare in our province," he said. Organized by the Ontario Health Coalition and the Ontario Council of Hospital Unions through the Canadian Union of Public Employees (OCHU-CUPE), the horse and its team made stops in both Haliburton and Minden, to speak with concerned citizens and the realities of what privatizing healthcare would mean for the communities.

Snowmaker settles in at Winterdance

"We're ready." Two words from Tanya McCready, the owner of Winterdance Dogsled Tours in Haliburton. An optimistic sentiment from a tourism provider who was quite literally stuck in the slush last year. The dogsled company has made the move to purchase a snowmaker, in hopes that it will assist with unpredictable weather moving forward.

Kilcoo sexual assault resolved in settlement

A settlement has been found between former Kilcoo Camp director David Latimer and J. Doe #1 and J. Doe #2, who, in late July of 2023, brought forward sexual assault allegations against the director. As of Dec. 12, 2024, the lawsuit has been resolved by mutual agreement of the parties.

County council chooses Burton to be warden

Haliburton County has a new face in the warden's seat at the council table.

Highlands East Mayor Dave Burton shuffled from the deputy warden's chair to the top spot on council for a one-year term. The upper tier council chose between Burton and Minden Hills Mayor Bob Carter during a Dec. 10 election.

Haliburton's annual Santa Claus Parade occurred on a drizzly night, and while there was no snow, the engaged crowds felt the magic of Christmas in the air. /FILE

Communication boards create connection

"We all use different forms of communication to connect."

That's what Sue Tiffin, the community safety and well-being plan coordinator for the County of Haliburton, shared when the news was shared around the recently built communication boards in Head Lake Park and Rotary Beach Park in Haliburton. "The communication boards in our local parks can be used by anyone to communicate, play and have fun," she said. "They help familiarize people with a tool they might not see every day but that can be essential for people who use augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) to have access to language."

Right, Chloe Morissette of Haliburton dazzled the crowd during Skyline Dance Studio's annual rendition of the classic *Nutracker* ballet. The event sold out multiple shows in a row, and kicked off the holiday season for Haliburton County residents. /FILE

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Hal High Monthly

Hal High Monthly is written by the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School leadership class featuring monthy school news.

Hal High students braced for exam season

By: Lauren Ackerblade (Gr. 12), Maya Johnson (Gr. 12), Acadia Saulnier (Gr. 12), and Téa Yates (Gr. 12)

It's a new month and new year at Hal High, which means another month of busy students in Haliburton County. Students and staff have been busy preparing for exams and wrapping up the first semester.

Clubs wound down for the month to give students an opportunity to study for their exams and work on their final assignments. Drama Club announced its spring production, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and students received their audition packets. Auditions will take place at the beginning of second semester, with the production debuting at the end of May.

Fresh off the heels of the holiday break, athletes are working hard. The senior girls volleyball team came together with amazing teamwork and dedication as they prepared for the Kawartha Championship. Their hard work and determination really paid off as they stayed focused on their goal.

Additionally, the junior girls volleyball team had an incredible season, staying undefeated. They played some amazing games to wrap up a fantastic season and their playoffs start on Feb. 5th at HHSS.

As for the Nordic skiing team, they also had an impressive year, giving it their all and showing lots of improvement along the way. The HHSS basketball teams had great seasons too. The junior and senior boys team made it to the playoffs which take place the second week of February. The team had several individuals coming back to join the team from the previous years. They showed awesome leadership and teamwork, and the coaches worked hard to make the team a fun and positive place for everyone.

Overall, HHSS sports teams showed how far hard work and dedication can take you, making this year one to remember!

As Hal High continues booming with extra-curriculars and activities, there is one main topic on everyone's minds: exams. While it was a stressful time for many students and teachers as far as workload, pressure, and time management goes, Hal High was committed to offering many resources to make exam season all the bit easier to handle.

Self Care Week took place from Jan. 13 to 17, which was geared towards students to provide them with quiet spaces to study or wind down, as well as a few calming activities to help alleviate day-to-day stress. The library and the Learning Hub were offered as quiet spaces at lunch during the duration of the week, as well as a silent study space in Room 19. Mindful crafts were available all week as well, including a well-attended slime making day, and on Thursday, everyone was encouraged to wear their most comfortable outfit for peak relaxation. Cocoa and Cram days were offered as well, where hot cocoa was available in the library along with a study-friendly space.

Exams began on Friday, Jan. 24, and continue after the weekend from the 27 until the 30. Exams start with the Block A class on the 24th, Block B class on the 27th, Block C class on the 28th, and Block D class on the 29th. Any exam that is needed to be postponed due to weather will take place on the 30th. Friday the 31st is a Professional Activity (P.A.) Day for both elementary and secondary students. School will re-open on Feb. 3, and that will mark the first day of second semester for Hal High!

Hal High students participated in a slime making workshop during their Self Care Week, which was prior to their winter exams. /photo submitted

The slime making workshop at Hal High provided some relief during a stressful exam time for students.

Hart presents "Water, water everywhere …"

THOMAS SMITH

Staff Reporter

Barry Hart, who started Water Ambassadors in 2002, is still hard at work, trying to provide access points for clean water around the world. /FILE

Longtime local residents Barry Hart and his wife Heather founded Water Ambassadors in 2002. After visiting Haliburton County as a cottager for decades, he and his wife would visit Haliburton and surrounding communities on roadtrips regularly. After retiring as a teacher, he was attracted to the quaintness and intimacy provided by nature and the landscapes of the Haliburton Highlands. The couple made the decision to move to the county 35 years ago.

Through attending a conference in the United States, Hart learned about well drilling and how simple a solution it was to provide clean drinking water to impoverished areas throughout the world.

His first trip was to Guatemala. In just four days, Hart was able to see the instantaneous difference the drill had on the village. Clean drinking water could be supplied to thousands of people in the surrounding area. After this trip, Hart was inspired to start Water Ambassadors Canada.

Water Ambassadors Canada provides access to lean drinking water through a variety of methods.

The first method, which is also the most expensive, is drilling new wells. Drilling for water with new wells is a guessing game, especially if there are no other wells in neighbouring towns.

The second, and most effective method is through repairing pre-existing wells. In Nicaragua alone, Hart has estimated that there are around 70,000 damaged wells in need of repair. Issues such as loose bolts, collapsed tubing, and concrete pad repairs can cause a well to cease its functions.

The third method involves setting up water filtration systems. Typically, this solution is for areas that have a preexisting water source, such as a river. Pumps and a filtration system can be installed to allow residents to filter out the water.

The fourth method is chlorination. Chlorination disinfects the water using chlorine, often in the form of sodium hypochlorite. This kills bacteria, viruses, and pathogens such as dysentery, cholera, and typhoid.

Nowadays, after the COVID-19 pandemic, Hart says that the majority of work that Water Ambassadors Canada does is through "boots on the ground partners" in other countries. After meeting qualified workers and building their trust in communities, Water Ambassadors Canada provides the funding and supplies necessary to support the completion of projects such as chlorination systems, filtration systems, and well repair. Hart says that this method has been highly successful and empowers local workers to support their communities.

Water Ambassadors Canada still actively finds volunteers and trips for people to explore other countries, and support clean drinking water initiatives. Hart says that people are deeply moved from these trips and continue impacting their communities around them even after they return.

On Wednesday, Jan. 8, Hart was invited to present a talk for the first Speakers Series of the year. The evening presentations are held once a month at the Fish Hatchery, and cover a wealth of topics for the community. His presentation was titled "Water water everywhere…" and was divided into two segments. The first segment involved a deep dive into everything about water. With his experience as a high school science teacher, Hart felt it was important to discuss the chemistry, physical properties, and the importance that water has in biology. After the coffee break, Hart changed gears to discuss Water Ambassadors Canada and his charitable work involved with providing clean drinking water around the world.

Water Ambassadors Canada has completed projects in over 25 countries including Belize, Bolivia, Burundi, Colombia, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Iran, Kenya, Liberia, Nicaragua, Nepal, Philippines, Somaliland, Tanzania, Uganda, Venezuela, and Zambia. Hart estimates over 500,000 individuals have directly benefitted from Water Ambassadors Canada's efforts.

"They'll treat you like a celebrity," said Hart during his talk. They love you for being there, even though there is a language barrier."

During the speaker series, an audience member asked why their organization was not working on clean drinking water in Canada, specifically in impoverished areas such as Indigenous Reservations. Hart says that their organization focuses their efforts on simple point-to-point clean water solutions. Certainly, there are areas in Canada in need of improvements to quality of life, but those changes must come in the form of improvement to municipal systems. Their current methods involved with filtration systems, well infrastructure, and chlorination systems are not meant to survive in the hostile Canadian environment.

"Contaminated drinking water is the biggest cause of death and disease in the world," said Hart. "It is the biggest global crisis and it is going under the radar."

Water Ambassadors Canada is a Christian ministry that started out of Lakeside Church in Haliburton. Hart would like to thank the people of Haliburton, the churches of Haliburton, the service clubs, golfers who attend their fundraising golf tournaments and the general community for their generous support over the years.

"Everybody should be involved in some way to help others," said Hart. Whether it is volunteering in your local community, with an organization such as Habitat for Humanity, or assisting with the fires in L.A., Hart encourages everyone to find joy in their hearts through volunteering and charity.

"People's hearts should be moved by something, somewhere," said Hart.

Municipality of Dysart et al

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Telephone: (705) 457-1740
Email: info@dysartetal.ca
Website: www.dysartetal.ca

NOTICE OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING
COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT

- **DATE**: Wednesday, February 12th, 2025
- **TIME**: 11:00 am.
- **LOCATION**: The Committee of Adjustment meeting will be held in the Council Chambers and electronically via Zoom. The meeting will be live streamed to YouTube.

APPLICATIONS:

1. D13-MV-2024-026 McGuffie

- The following variances are requested to permit an increase to the maximum shoreland lot coverage, lot coverage and reduce the minimum interior side lot line setback for a private cabin on a lot located in the WR4 zone:

  a) A variance to section 5.2 to permit a maximum lot coverage to be 17.9% as opposed to the permitted maximum of 15%.

  b) A variance to section 5.2 to permit a maximum shoreland lot coverage to be 19.6% as opposed to the permitted maximum of 15%.

  c) A variance to section 3.1(e)(v) to permit a private cabin to have a minimum interior side lot line setback of 3.6 metre (11.8 feet) as opposed to the required minimum of 4.5 metres (14.7 feet).

- Location: Part Lot 8, Concession 3, Lot 21, Plan 479 in the Geographic Township of Havelock, in the Municipality of Dysart et al.
  Roll No. 060-000-41900 – 1011 Champlain Road

FOR MORE INFORMATION about electronic meetings and public participation in an electronic meeting, contact the Secretary-Treasurer at ameijer@dysartetal.ca.

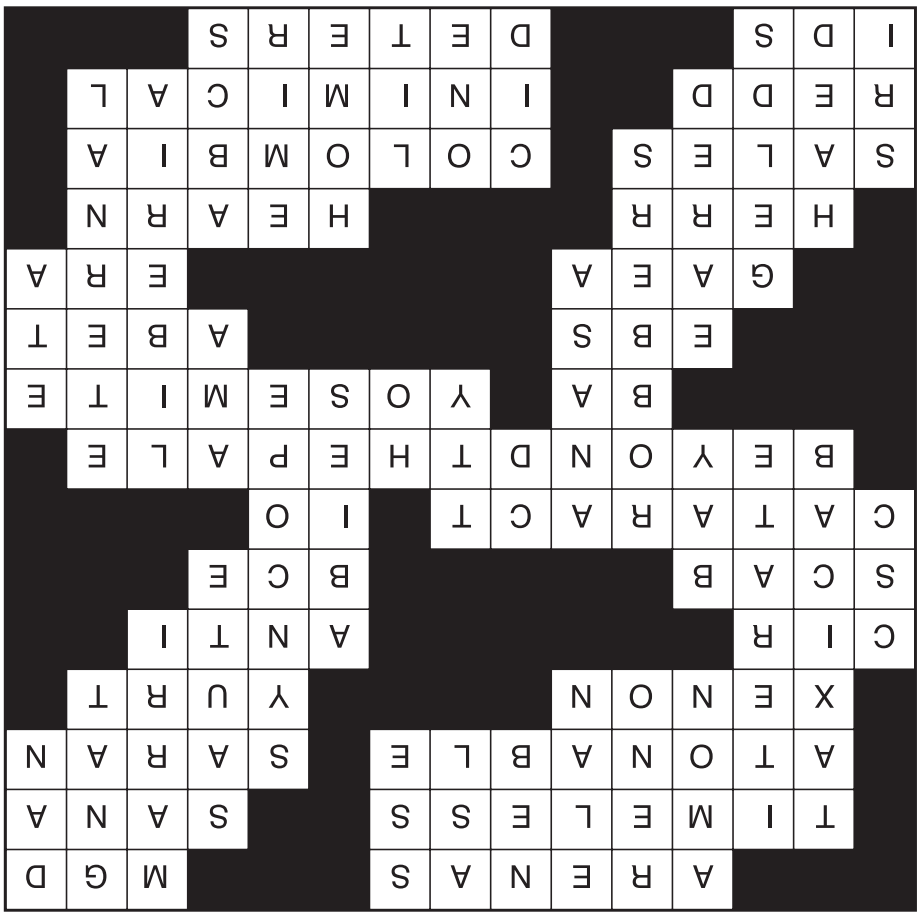
ANY PERSON is entitled to attend the hearing to express his/her views about these applications or may be represented by an agent for that purpose. If you do not attend the hearing the Committee may proceed in your absence, and you will not be entitled to any further notice of the proceedings. The Committee will accept oral and written submissions.

A COPY OF THE DECISION will be sent to the applicant, the agent and to each person who has filed with the Secretary-Treasurer a written request for notice of the decision.

FURTHER INFORMATION: including specific information about the zone provisions affected by each application, and electronic meeting process is available from the Planning and Land Information Department at the Municipal Office by appointment only (8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday) or by phoning 705-457-1740.

Adam Meijer
Secretary-Treasurer, Committee of Adjustment

CROSSWORD ANSWERS



The sound of the pipes

It was a full house at the Legion for the Haliburton Highlanders Pipes and Drums Band's annual Robbie Burns Night on Jan. 25. The event included Scottish Country Dancing, live music, poetry readings, and an Address to the Haggis. /TIM YANO staff photographer

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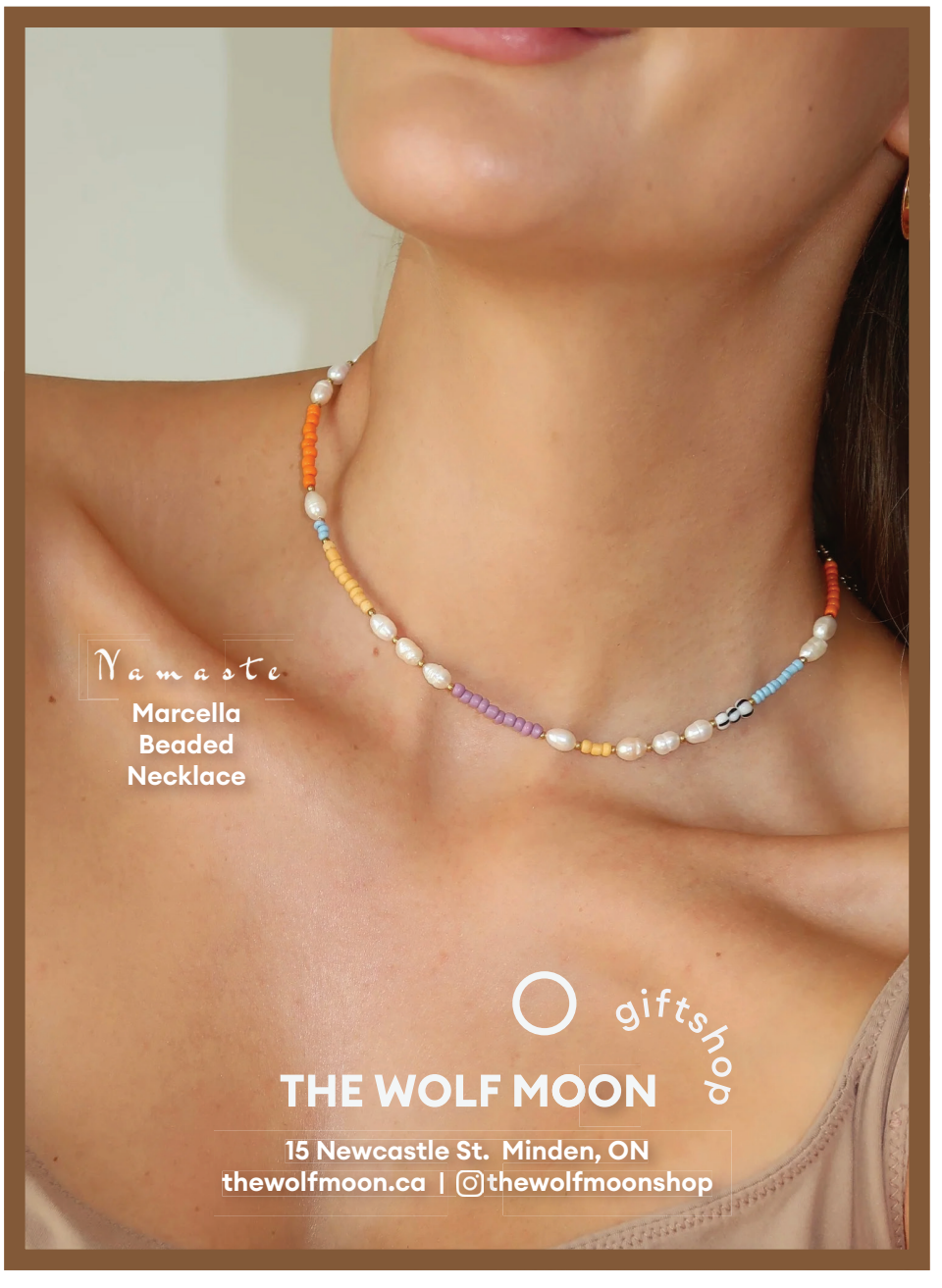

HHHS community engagement planned

We are excited to invite you to our Summer Community Engagement Sessions – happening virtually on Feb. 4, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. All are welcome!

During these sessions, we will hear from local leaders and experts on preparing for the future, Haliburton Highlands Health Services, and most importantly – you!

We look forward to connecting to share resources and information with you around how to get a power of attorney for health and finance decisions, dive deeper into consent and capacity referrals, shine a light on our new Volunteer Services programming at HHHS, provide additional details on our HHHS Master Plan, and answer your questions around how you can better connect and collaborate with HHHS. Please see below agenda. Virtual dial-in information is coming soon. Recording and presentation will be made available on hhhs.ca website.

- Introduction: Veronica Nelson, President and CEO, Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS)
-How to get a POA for Health and Finance: Bram Lebo, Lebo Law
- POA Logistics: Penny Stayropoulos, Partner and Portfolio Manager, Treegrove Investment Management Inc.
- Consent and Capacity Referrals: Beth Archibald
- HHHS Volunteer Services: Amanda Rowden, Community Support Services Manager, HHHS
- HHHS Master Plan Sessions Overview: Veronica Nelson, President and CEO, HHHS
- Connect and Collaborate with HHHS: Lauren Ernst, Communications and Employee Experience Lead, HHHS
- Your Turn! Run by Lauren Ernst (Moderator)
- Final Remarks and Evaluation: Veronica Nelson

Submitted

Volleyball victories

The JDH Junior Volleyball Jaguars celebrates a win against the Archie Stouffer Elementary Wildcats last Tuesday in Haliburton. The teams battled it out through a series of games in the school gym. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

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• Website: www.bonnieviewinn.com

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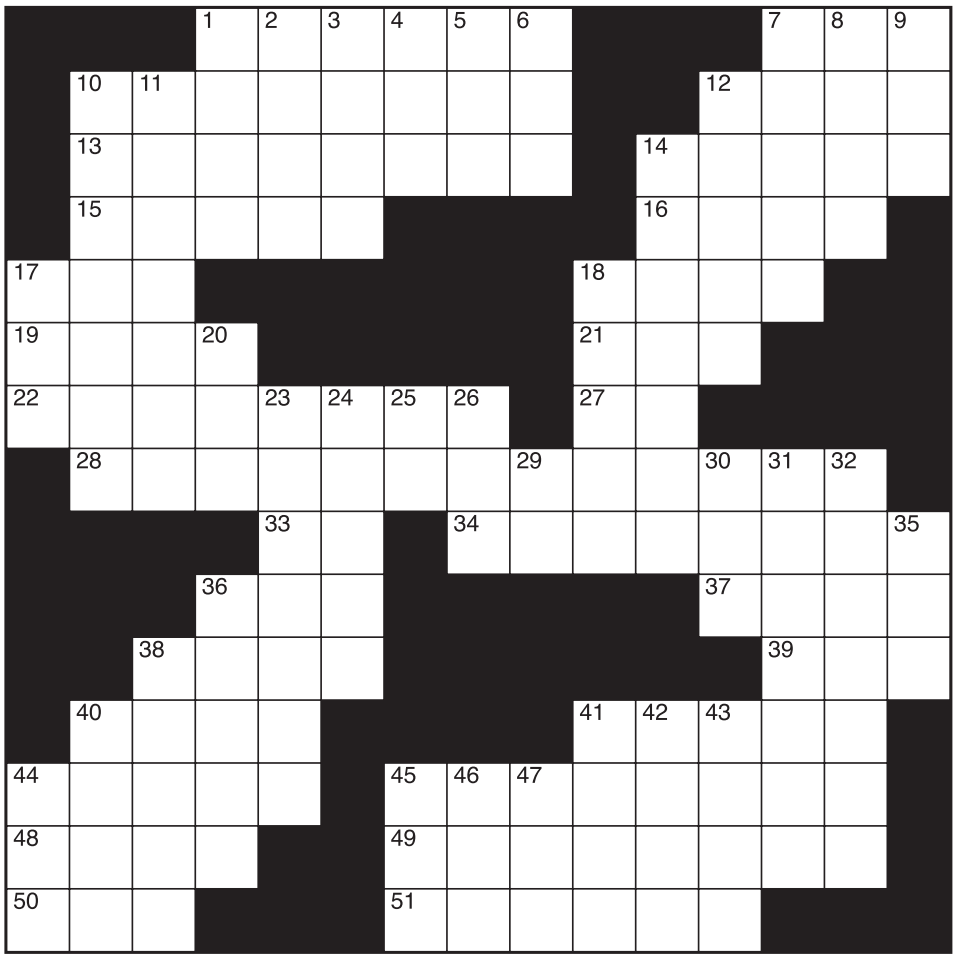
Date: Saturday, Feb. 1

Time: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Location: Bonnie View Inn, 2713 Kashagawigamog Lake Road, Haliburton, Ontario, K0M 1S0

Submitted



CLUES ACROSS
1. Where entertainers perform
7. Miller beer variety
10. Ageless
12. River in SE Europe
13. Able to be repaired
14. Type of wrap
15. Atomic #54
16. Type of tent
17. U.S. Treasury position
18. Opposed to
19. Protective covering
21. Bridge building degree
22. Clouding of the lens
27. Priestess of Hera loved by Zeus
28. Unacceptable
33. Mr. T's "The A-Team" character
34. American national park
36. One point south of due east
37. Assist in a crime
38. Greek mythological personification of Earth
39. A major division of geological time
40. German courtesy title
41. English family dating back to Norman times
44. Discounts
45. South American nation
48. Former Milwaukee Buck Michael
49. Hostile
50. Passports and drivers licenses are two
51. Discourages from doing

CLUES DOWN
1. Supreme god of ancient Egyptians
2. Nevada city
3. Energy, style and enthusiasm
4. Bird's beak
5. Language
6. Midway between south and southeast
7. Punjab village
8. Small biting flies
9. Sportscaster Patrick
10. A way to get around
11. Repeat
12. A way to cook with fat
14. Temporary loss of consciousness
17. Reciprocal of a sine
18. Fir tree genus
20. ÒTransformers' director Michael
23. Criminals who steal
24. Genus of leaf-footed bug
25. Music product
26. "Talk to you"
29. Santa says it three times
30. Doctors' group
31. African nation
32. Ageless
35. When you hope to get somewhere
36. Worn
38. Deprives of vigor
40. Used to have (Scottish)
41. Where you live
42. Muslim ruler title
43. Basics
44. Type of drug (abbr.)
45. Spanish soldier
46. It precedes two
47. Illuminated

Answers on page 12

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Human Resources Coordinator
Township of Algonquin Highlands
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Email: dmugfordguay@algonquinhighlands.ca

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650 OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of

Joseph Zahn

August 31st, 1942 - January 25th, 2025

It is with great sadness that we announce the peaceful passing of Joseph "Joe" Zahn, who left this world surrounded by his loved ones on January 25th, 2025 at the age of 82.

Joe was a one of a kind husband to his wife Christine "Chris" Zahn, Father to Peter Zahn and Michael Zahn, Grandfather to Heather Hickling, Bradley LeBlanc and Ashley Zahn, Great Grandfather to Theodore LeBlanc and Yvonne Hickling and a dear friend to so many.

Joe always knew how to make a room fill with laughter and joy. He loved like no other and always took pride in taking care of those around him. Joe was a family man, and he lived for the moments where we all came together. He shared his love for travel with his wife, adventuring to many different parts of the world all throughout their time together. Many memories were made while doing his favourite things, being outside, listening to music, indulging in theatre, and of course watching sports. His drive to work and provide for the ones he loved was one like no other.

A celebration of life will be held on February 8th from 1-3 at The Curling Club in Haliburton. Family and Friends are invited to come together and celebrate the life Joe led, the memories he shared and the laughter he brought. As an expression of sympathy, we invite you to make adonation to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation.

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640 IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of

Of a wonderful Mother, Mother-in-law and Grandmother

Carol Bradimore

December 25, 1938 - January 25, 2024

Our lives go on without you
But nothing is the same
We have tried to hide our heartache
When someone speaks your name,
Sad are the hearts that loved you
Silent the tears that fall
Living our lives without you
Is the hardest part of all
You did so many things for us
Your heart was kind and true
And when we needed someone
We could always count on you
The special days will not return
With you and us together
But with the love within our hearts
You'll walk with us forever

Missing you always
Cara and Peer
Kelly and Mark
Jesse and Emma
Erin and Riley

In loving memory of

Sherman Cruikshanks

July 11, 1942 - January 26, 2024

Remember him with love today
He wasn't one for tears
Reflect instead on memories
Of all the happy years

Recall his laugh,
The way he spoke
The helpful things he did
His strength, his skills
The way he teased
Remember these instead

The good times that
He shared with us
His eyes that shone with fun
So much of him that never died
He left for everyone

Always in our thoughts
Forever in our hearts

Missing you always
Your daughters
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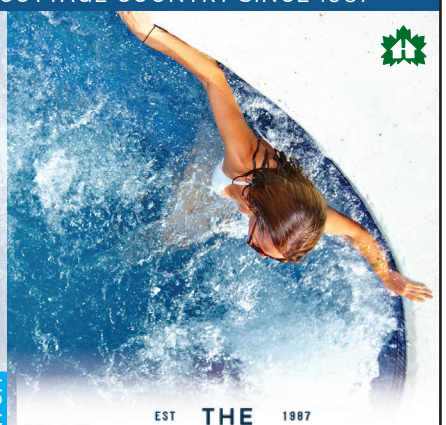

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County Life

INSIDE THIS WEEK:

HOME FROM KABUL
Greg Forgrave gives his parents the best Christmas present ever

MIGHTY MIDGETS
Highland Storm does hometown proud in prestigious hockey competition

ROBIN SPOTTED
Christmas Bird Count includes unofficial sighting of robin on December 31

THE ECHO
HALIBURTON COUNTY
TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2007
VOL. 124 NO. 2 $1.25 INCL. GST

Fewer kids may lead to fewer teachers

JESSICA YOUNG
Staff Reporter

For the past few years, Archie Stouffer, Stuart Baker, J. Douglas Hodgson, Wilberforce and Cardiff elementary schools have noticed a three-to-four per cent drop in students and the secondary school will be feeling the effects this fall.

As a result of fewer children advancing through the grades, Haliburton Highlands Secondary School will notice a decline in Grade 9 student enrollment in September, possibly resulting in the loss of two teachers, says principal Gary Brohman.

"You never know about lay offs because there are teachers who take maternity leave or there will be some teachers who retire," Brohman says. "My hope is that nobody gets laid off, but with declining enrollment, that's a reality. Fewer kids means fewer teachers. We will probably lose two teachers next year."

Paul Doiron, superintendent of elementary and secondary school operations for Trillium Lakelands District School Board, is a bit more optimistic. "We probably don't have to lay off any teachers," he says

Doiron sees the fall in numbers as a reflection of the declining birthrate in Ontario and the county's older population.

"In most of rural Ontario, there has been a decreased birth rate. It has significance when younger folks are having fewer children. We know our society is aging. We have more boomers reaching retirement age than young people in the

See **Young families** page 12

CASEY LESSARD/Echo

Frosty the snow racer

Brayden Frost pushes his massive snowball into the lead in a race against his friends in the J Douglas Hodgson playground Monday. "Now that there's snow," Brayden said, "it's awesome because we got to do our annual snowball race." He and his friends were only able to have their race after about 10 cm of snow fell overnight. The snowfall was an answer to the prayers of many in the area whose businesses rely on traditional winter conditions for tourist dollars.

Snowbirds flock to MP's passport clinic

GREG HOEKSTRA
Staff Reporter

Well over 100 people turned out last week for a passport clinic hosted by local MP Barry Devolin – many in anticipation of looming travel restrictions slated to take effect two weeks from today.

As of January 23, any Canadian hoping to fly to the United States will require a passport. What's more, within two years' time, the same requirements will be extended to those crossing the border by both land and sea.

Devolin says the new requirements, which are part of a larger American initiative to prevent terrorism, have prompted more Canadians than ever to apply for a passport, which has created delays and setbacks in Passport Canada offices.

"They're running more than double their normal rate, and the line ups at some passport offices are hours long," he says.

Deborah Flood, who brought her 17-year-old son Brad to Thursday's clinic to apply for his first passport, says the U.S. regulations were the sole factor that drove her to visit last week's clinic.

"We don't travel there often but Brad's father lives down there so we need to be able to get back and forth just in case," she says.

Richard Burns of Haliburton has had a passport before but he too agrees that, at this point, his only reason for needing a passport will be in case he decides to venture south of the border.

"I just thought I might be doing a little travelling to the States soon," says Burns, following the principle that it's

See **Heavy demand** page 5

GREG HOEKSTRA/Echo

It's estimated that more than 100 people, including Jack and Loretta Billings of Gooderham, turned out last Thursday for a passport clinic in anticipation of new rules for entering the U.S..

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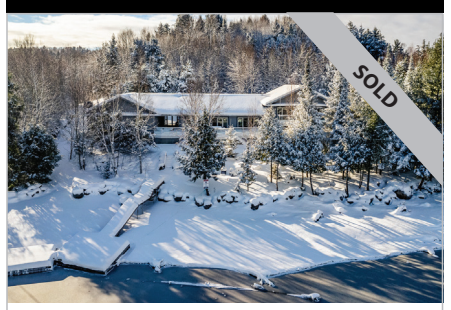

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